

SECTION 2:
GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES OF SAND POINT MAGNUSON PARK

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2.0 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

The Goals and Objectives for the Vegetation Management Plan for Sand Point Magnuson Park have been derived by compiling the relevant vegetation related policies and goals from all relevant Citywide plans and policies. Then all the related planning, acquisition, and management documents specifically related to the acquisition, management and goals for Sand Point Magnuson Park were reviewed to compile those goals and objectives related specifically to vegetation management. The Goals and Objectives for managing vegetation within Sand Point Magnuson Park have been drafted to reflect Citywide and Sand Point Magnuson Park-specific goals and objectives, with input from a broad range of interested citizens.

2.1 Goals and Objectives: Sand Point Magnuson Park Vegetation Management Plan

Based on a review of applicable Citywide Plans and policies, specific Sand Point Magnuson Park adopted plans and policies, and a broad range of comment from citizens, park users and stewardship groups, the following five goals have been identified to serve as the framework for this Vegetation Management Plan for Sand Point Magnuson Park:

- i. Maintain, preserve and restore the integrity of historic landscape elements within the Park.
- ii. Regenerate the natural habitats of the Park.
- iii. Promote stewardship and sustainability of the vegetation within the Park.
- iv. Provide for active and passive recreation opportunities within the Park.
- v. Integrate the diversity of landscapes and uses within the Park.

None of the Goals and Objectives for this Vegetation Management Plan for Sand Point Magnuson Park reflects the oft-spoken concern from some neighbors regarding the views across the Park to the waters of Lake Washington. Vegetation management Goals and Objectives for this Park, like those for any Park in the City, must reflect all previously-adopted Citywide goals, objectives, and policies relating to vegetation.

As discussed in Section 3-3 below, the public opinions and comments on the management of vegetation within Sand Point Magnuson Park covered a broad spectrum: from removing all vegetation to the ‘conditions like the days of the runways’, to completely restoring the site to native upland forest and wetland habitat. The historic documents summarized in Section 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 of this report outline where historically significant viewsheds from inside the park are required to be maintained. This Plan has been drafted to reflect a broad range of public concerns, but does not propose to manage vegetation within the Park to restore or maintain private views from outside the Park.

2.2 Overview: Applicable Department of Parks and Recreation Plans and Policies

The following summaries present bulleted highlights of each applicable Citywide plan or policy that is relevant to managing vegetation within Sand Point Magnuson Park.

2.2.1 Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation Complan (2000)

Mission Statement: The mission of Seattle Parks is to connect the people of Seattle and our visitors with programs and places to play, grow, and build community. The following qualities represent values and long term goals that follow from the mission statement.

- Enhancement of both a green and blue Seattle will be strongly advocated for as will habitat for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife.
- The system of open public space will be expanded, as resources become available and maintained to conserve natural areas.
- Selected areas will be restored to a more natural condition, with attention to creeks and other wildlife corridors.
- More recognition will be given to the natural and human history of the city and neighborhoods.
- Manage shoreline resources to protect and where possible enhance habitat for salmon and other native fish.
- Incorporate habitat restoration or enhancement measures in maintenance activities as well as capital projects.

2.2.2 Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation Tree Policy (2001)

The Tree Policy was adopted by DPR in June 2001. As stated, the purpose of the Tree Policy is: “To maintain, preserve, and enhance the urban forest within parks. To increase overall tree canopy, tree health, and tree longevity within parks. To ensure that parks trees are managed in such a manner that is consistent with other departmental and municipal policies.” The Tree Policy includes guidance for what is to be included within a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) for a City Park. A VMP is to include:

- Site inventory and assessment including a site map illustrating topography and vegetation.
- Trees that are proposed for removal and/or pruning must be designated.
- Planting design showing species, size, location and any needed erosion control/slope stabilization methods.
- Public involvement plan, if applicable in compliance with DPR Public Involvement Procedures (PIP).
- Maintenance plan including tasks, and frequencies.

For all Vegetation Management Plans the following directives, applicable to Sand Point Magnuson Park, are included:

- Topping of trees (removal of the upper portion by cutting off the main trunk) is disallowed.
- Vegetation work will be evaluated for its overall public benefit with priority given to public safety, limiting removal, increasing forest canopy, and preserving appropriate vegetation.
- No trees on public lands will be removed solely for private views.
- Work related to private views must achieve public benefit beyond view relief.

2.2.3 Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation Urban Wildlife and Habitat Management Plan (2000 Update)

- Continue and increase wildlife habitat protection and enhancement efforts.
- Protect and enhance wildlife populations.
- Provide environmental education, using wildlife resources.
- Develop and maintain a wildlife resource inventory.
- Promote volunteer involvement in wildlife and habitat protection and enhancement.
- Promote internal education and consistency in Department actions.
- Promote interdepartmental and interagency cooperation to protect wildlife.

2.3 Sand Point Magnuson Park Adopted Plans and Policies

The following goals, objectives and policies have been gleaned from plans that have been adopted specifically to address issues related to the transfer and management of the Sand Point Naval Station to Seattle Parks Department.

2.3.1 Sand Point Physical Development Management Plan (PDMP) (1997)

[Amended by Council Resolution 30063 (1999) Magnuson Park Concept Plan, Council Resolution 30293 (2001) Athletic Fields Configuration] Combined with the City Comprehensive Plan Amendments and the City Zoning code, the Sand Point PDMP constitutes the 1997 Reuse Plan for Sand Point Naval Station. Site management parameters relevant to vegetation are: the Site Design Guidelines, Historic Properties Reuse and Protection Plan (HPRP) and the Long Term Management Plan. These are specific Activity Area recommendations in the (PDMP) that relate to vegetation as follows:

North Shore Recreation Area

- Demonstrate environmental stewardship, restore shoreline, and enhance public use of slope with landscaping improvements.

Education and Community Activities Area

- Sites of demolished buildings to be landscaped as usable open space.

Arts, Culture, and Community Center Area

- Replace Building 222 with terraced lawn amphitheater (completed 2001).
- Consider demolishing Building 223 to enlarge open space (completed 1999).
- Create a large landscaped parking lot southeast of Building 41.

Federal Institutional Uses

- Existing federal neighbors (NOAA & National Biological Service) should integrate with Sand Point peninsula, designing for visual integration & physical coherence of site.

Magnuson Park Open Space/Recreation Expansion Area

- Enhance open space & natural areas.

- Demonstrate environmental sensitivity.
- Improve Park entrance and 65th corridor with tree plantings and landscape improvements (in process 2001).
- Create complex ecosystem similar to that which previously existed, for wildlife habitat, environmental education, and recreational activity values.
- Develop large unstructured open space to blend proposed sports fields with existing Magnuson Park.

2.3.2 Design Guidelines Manual for Sand Point Magnuson Park (1997)

Provides detailed guidance for physical development of the Park. It is written for administrators, maintenance personnel, Park designers, Park-users and neighbors. The Design Guidelines Manual also includes Technical Guideline Sections (relating to vegetation management) addressing the following issues: Site Design, Open Space & Recreation, Shoreline Restoration, Circulation and Access, Planting, Fences, Walls & Screens, Architecture, Public Art, and Demolition of Existing Structures. The Design Guidelines Manual includes the following directions:

- Lays out formal procedures relating to project implementation.
- Functions independently of particular Park master and facility plans.
- Focuses on design issues of converting historic military base to civilian public use.

Overarching Design Goals

- Create single identifiable place at former Naval Air Station.
- Retain historical character of Sand Point.
- Reveal authentic character of buildings and landscape, rather than creating new identity.

Implementation Objectives

- Foster visual and functional integration of open space, recreation, and campus components of Park with neighboring community.
- Ensure continuity for phased and ongoing incremental improvements for park development, site improvements, and building adaptation/rehabilitation.
- Incorporate stewardship and sustainable design into all aspects of guidelines.

Site Design Objectives

- Unify Park through development of a common landscape treatment & palette.
- Respect and enhance historic character of Sand Point.
- Stabilize, enhance, and restore shoreline to establish sustainable balance of human recreation access and shoreline habitat areas.
- Create a viable wetland habitat with direct hydrologic link to Lake Washington.
- Reduce pavement at Sand Point to allow additional landscaping and decrease runoff.
- Preserve and enhance existing landscape of the Naval Station to maintain historic 1930's character, with new projects and restorations adhering to landscape style of era.

Active Recreation Zone Objectives

- To create landscape transition from historic district to more naturalized Magnuson Park and provide orderly, low maintenance, high use plantings.
- Utilize walls, rockeries, and terracing to retain steep grades, provide planting terraces, screen service functions, and separate incompatible land uses.

Architecture Objective

- New building design should respond to surrounding site conditions: existing topography, natural features, vegetation and significant views.

Public Art Objective

- Artwork should be integrated into the overall site, designed to be compatible with the natural and historic landscapes.
- Artwork should demonstrate sensitivity to environmental concerns: water use, conservation, recycling, and restoration of indigenous landscape, diversity of plant species.

Demolition Objective

- Minimize environmental impact and respect integrity of historic site character during both demolition and site restoration, never leaving site unvegetated for any length of time.
- Protect existing trees to be retained on site.

2.3.3 Sand Point Historic Properties Re-use and Protection Plan (1998)

The Historic Properties Re-use and Protection Plan is one of four documents that provides a manual for developers and property managers working with Sand Point Magnuson Park. It outlines appropriate uses, management and maintenance actions to ensure that future projects and long-term maintenance are compatible with the overarching goals and policies established in the Plan. This particular document confirms the Navy's 1994 determination that former Naval Station Puget Sound, Sand Point (now known as the Community Campus area) qualifies for designation as a National Register of Historic Places Historic District, and sets forth the contributing elements and terms of their protection.

Deed Covenant Requirements

Historic preservation covenants included in the Federal government's transfer documents require the City of Seattle and University of Washington (the property recipients) to:

- Prepare a Historic Properties Re-Use and Protection (HPRP) Plan in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).
- Review plans and proposals with the SPMP Historic Preservation Coordinator prior to initiation of any construction, alteration, remodeling, demolition, or any other action which would materially affect integrity or appearance of historic resources at Sand Point, including identified vegetation.

- Insure that all planned actions conform to the Secretary of Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Historic Preservation Projects, and follow stipulated historic review procedures.

HPRP Plan Elements

- Identifies and maps “contributing” Historic District Buildings, Landscape Features and View Corridors to be preserved and maintained, including twelve landscape features that are designated as vegetation resources.
- Defines the policies, principles and guidelines by which historic resources at Sand Point will be maintained and managed, naming “rehabilitation” the preferred treatment for eligible (contributing) resources.
- Adopts Secretary of Interior’s Standards to guide historic preservation and rehabilitation at Sand Point, outlining appropriate maintenance and management techniques.
- Establishes review process for proposed projects that have the potential to affect historic properties. According to this plan, a designated SPMP Historic Preservation Coordinator is delegated by the SHPO to spearhead most reviews, one relevant exception being “Removal of a significant landscape feature (listed in Table 2-3), “ which triggers automatic consultation with the SHPO in what is known as Level C Review.
- Presents methods to interpret site history to enhance public appreciation and enjoyment.
- Sets up Standard Operating Procedures to address staffing responsibilities and training, procedures for tracking and reviewing activities within the historic district, and appropriate record keeping related to historic resources.
- Mandates and describes four categories of cyclic and ongoing monitoring to fulfill City stewardship responsibilities and long-term management goals for historic resources.

2.3.4 Sand Point Blue Ribbon Committee Report to the Mayor and Seattle City Council (1999)

The Committee undertook a comprehensive re-examination of the Sand Point Magnuson Park peninsula, addressing planning, operations, management and financing issues. Their findings included a vision statement plus specific recommendations relevant to vegetation management, as follows.

Vision

“In our priorities, the land comes first, the historic structures of national significance come second, and the rich mix of uses and user groups comes third. Integrate Sand Point within Magnuson Park and begin restoration of expanded park... bringing back to life the magnificent lake, wetlands, habitat and streams. Restore the contours of the land, grow back the lush vegetation...”

Design Recommendations

- Peninsula should be unified and restored, its structures treated as “buildings in a park.”

- Collaborate with NOAA regarding shared peninsula natural systems and habitat.
- Improve park entrance, involving community in the process.
- Give attention to transition areas: between activity and natural areas; between shoreline and the land, on west side, where Park meets Sand Point Way and the neighborhood.
- Minimize fencing; rely on landscaping and topography where separation is essential.
- Identify and address historic preservation issues and requirements.

Management Recommendations

- Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation should manage expanded Park as an integrated site; responsibilities to include: planning and management of natural areas and restoration projects, maintenance of grounds and sports fields, preparation and implementation of Park design, transportation plan, parking plan and design guidelines.

Operations and Use Recommendations

- Use should be considered not as consumption – using up space or land – but as adding to the sum total of Magnuson Park.
- City should seek opportunities to employ residents on reclamation, construction, maintenance and other projects.

Funding Recommendations

- Fund short-term projects which will establish framework for longer-term Park success:
 - Mud Lake restoration as critical first step in the Park's environmental restoration.
 - Responsible building preservation and asset maintenance.
 - Improved Park entrance design and construction.
- Fund Seattle Conservation Corps pilot projects: trail construction, shoreline restoration.
- Consider funding branch library emphasizing habitat, environment and sustainability.
- Provide strong and continuous commitment to funding Park maintenance, insuring stewardship for future generations of environmental improvements made.